

Remarks

In the subject Action, the Examiner first rejected claims 9-10 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicant respectfully requests deferral of this issue pending resolution of any other obstacles to patentability. Among other things, one terminal disclaimer has already been filed in the subject application.

Next, the Examiner rejected claims 10-11 as being anticipated by the cited patents to Rodgers, Eschenbach, and Huang. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and reasons set forth below.

On July 22, 2000, Applicant filed a substitute Declaration of Inventorship that claims the filing date of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 08/497,377 (filed on June 30, 1995). This parent application discloses subject matter similar to what is shown in Figures 11-24 of the subject application. All of the pending claims read on the embodiment shown in Figure 11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that neither cited Eschenbach reference is prior art vis-a-vis the claimed invention.

Without admitting that the cited Rodgers patent is prior art vis-a-vis the claimed invention, Applicant has nonetheless amended the claims in a manner that distinguishes the subject invention over both the Rodgers reference and the cited Huang patent. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 10 to recite left and right guides that are mounted on the frame for movement in reciprocal fashion relative thereto; and Applicant has amended claim 11 to recite that at least a portion of each said linking means is

constrained to move in reciprocal fashion relative to the frame. Neither of these limitations is met by the Rodgers reference or the Huang reference. A "clean" reproduction of claims 10 and 11, as amended, is submitted herewith.

Finally, Applicant has added dependent claims 12-22 to recite the subject invention in relatively narrower terms. As mentioned above, all of these added claims read on the embodiment shown in Figure 11.

As always, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned representative of Applicant to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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